

Please amend claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 12, 16, 18, 21, 23, 29 and 30 as follows, and add new claims 37-40.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for holding and transporting tubes, comprising:

a tube holder having an elongated body with at least one fluid collection sleeve thereon for receiving and retaining at least one fluid collection tube; and,

said at least one fluid collection tube including a bottom end and an enlarged top end;

at least one sample retriever sleeve thereon for receiving and retaining a sample retriever tube;

said at least one fluid collection sleeve including at least one ridge along an interior surface; and,

said at least one fluid collection sleeve allows passage of said bottom end of said fluid collection tube while preventing passage of said enlarged top end whereby said fluid collection tube is adapted to be pushed in opposing directions along an axis of said sleeve firstly from said top end and secondly from said bottom end.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further including at least one needle system sleeve thereon for receiving and retaining a needle system tube.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one fluid collection sleeve includes a first diameter;

said at least one sample retriever sleeve includes a second diameter; and,  
said first diameter less than said second diameter.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further including a first member and a second member for retaining a securing band therebetween.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further including [[a]] an open-ended protective guard connected to a side of said holder;

said guard includes at least one fluid collection opening therethrough; and,  
    said at least one fluid collection opening aligned with said at least one fluid  
collection sleeve for receiving and retaining said at least one fluid collection tube wherein  
said fluid collection tube is inserted firstly through said opening and secondly through said  
sleeve.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said guard is hingedly connected  
to said side of said holder.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said guard includes  
an outwardly projecting rim extending along at least one edge, said rim projects in a  
direction orthogonal to said guard and away from said sleeves.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said guard is comprised of  
flexible material.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said at least first opening is  
axially aligned with said at least first sleeve when said guard is orthogonal to said holder.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said body includes a  
hole therethrough proximal to an end for hanging said tube holder whereupon said at least  
one fluid collection sleeve is horizontal and said at least one fluid connection tube is  
accessed from said bottom end and said top end.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said body includes an  
identification area for documenting information.

12. (Currently amended) An apparatus for holding and transporting tubes,  
comprising:

    a tube holder having at least one fluid collection sleeve thereon for receiving  
and retaining at least one fluid collection tube; and,

    said tube holder including a first member and a second member for retaining

a securing band therebetween for securing said tube holder to a user's hand; and,  
said at least one fluid collection sleeve including a first ridge and at least a  
second ridge along an interior surface of said sleeve, said first ridge opposed to said  
at least second ridge.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, further including at least one sample retriever sleeve thereon for receiving and retaining a sample retriever tube.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, further including at least one needle system sleeve thereon for receiving and retaining a needle system tube.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said at least one fluid collection sleeve includes a first diameter;

said at least one sample retriever sleeve includes a second diameter; and,  
said first diameter less than said second diameter.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, further including [[a]] an  
open-ended protective guard connected to a side of said holder;

said guard includes at least one fluid collection opening therethrough; and,  
said at least first opening aligned with said at least one fluid collection sleeve  
for receiving and retaining said at least one fluid collection tube wherein said fluid collection  
tube is inserted firstly through said opening and secondly through said sleeve.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said guard is hingedly connected to said side of said holder.

18. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said guard includes an outwardly projecting rim extending along at least one edge, said rim projects in a  
direction orthogonal to said guard and away from said sleeves.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said guard is comprised of flexible material.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said at least first opening is axially aligned with said at least first sleeve when said guard is orthogonal to said holder.

21. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said body includes a hole therethrough proximal to an end for hanging said tube holder whereupon said at least one fluid collection sleeve is horizontal.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said body includes an identification area for documenting information.

23. (Currently amended) An apparatus for holding and transporting tubes, comprising:

a tube holder having at least one fluid collection sleeve thereon;  
[[a]] an open-ended protective guard connected to a side of said holder;  
said guard including at least one fluid collection opening therethrough;  
said at least one fluid collection opening aligned with said at least one fluid collection sleeve for receiving and retaining at least one fluid collection tube wherein said fluid collection tube is inserted firstly through said opening and secondly through said sleeve; and,

said opening sized to allow passage of a bottom end of said fluid collection tube therethrough while restricting passage of a top end of said fluid collection tube therethrough.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, further including at least one sample retriever sleeve thereon for receiving and retaining a sample retriever tube.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, further including at least one needle system sleeve thereon for receiving and retaining a needle system tube.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said at least one fluid collection sleeve includes a first diameter;

said at least one sample retriever sleeve includes a second diameter; and,  
    said first diameter less than said second diameter.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said tube holder includes a first member and a second member for retaining a securing band therebetween.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said guard is hingedly connected to said side of said holder.

29. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said guard includes an outwardly projecting rim extending along at least one edge, said rim projects in a direction orthogonal to said guard and away from said sleeves.

30. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said body includes a hole therethrough proximal to an end for hanging said tube holder whereupon said at least one fluid collection sleeve is horizontal and said at least one fluid connection tube is accessed from said bottom end and said top end.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said guard is comprised of flexible material.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said at least one fluid collection opening is axially aligned with said at least one fluid collection sleeve when said guard is orthogonal to said holder.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said body includes an identification area for documenting information.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of collecting fluid samples from a donor comprising the steps of:

    mounting a tube holder to a donor's arm, said tube holder includes at least one fluid collection sleeve thereon for receiving and retaining at least one fluid collection

tube, said tube holder is moveable about the arm;

moving said at least one fluid collection tube toward a depositing needle, said needle is in communication with the fluid sample;

filling said at least one fluid collection tube with the fluid sample; and,

moving said at least one fluid collection tube away from said depositing needle.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, further comprising the steps of:  
rotating said tube holder about the donor's arm;  
moving at least a second fluid collection tube toward said depositing needle;  
filling said at least second fluid collection tube with the fluid sample; and,  
moving said at least second fluid collection tube away from said depositing needle.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, further comprising the steps of:  
dismounting said tube holder from the donor's arm; and,  
documenting donor information onto an identification area.

37. (New) An apparatus for holding and transporting tubes, comprising:  
a tube holder having an elongated body including a plurality of open ended fluid collection sleeves thereon for receiving and retaining a plurality of fluid collection tubes;

said plurality of fluid collection tubes each including a bottom end and an enlarged top end;

said plurality of fluid collection sleeves each including partially collapsed first and second ends adapted to facilitate retention of a variety of said fluid collection tubes; and,

said plurality of fluid collection sleeves allow passage of said bottom end of said fluid collection tube while preventing passage of said enlarged top end whereby said fluid collection tubes are adapted to be pushed in opposing directions along an axis of said sleeves firstly from said top end and secondly from said bottom end.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said plurality of fluid collection sleeves each further including at least one ridge along an interior surface.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said tube holder further including at least one sample retriever sleeve thereon for receiving and retaining a sample retriever tube.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said tube holder further includes an open-ended protective guard connected to a side of said holder;

    said guard includes at least one opening therethrough; and,

    said at least one opening aligned with said at least one fluid collection sleeve for receiving and retaining said at least one fluid collection tube wherein said fluid collection tube is inserted firstly through said opening and secondly through said sleeve.